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November 6, 1931

Confidential.

Mr. James M. Pendergast,
c/o Jackson County Democratic Club,
1908 Main Street,
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Jim:

Referring to our telephone conversation of yesterday morning concerning report of the political activities against me of Mr. Cherry and of the letter received in support of this from a leading Democrat of Harrisonville, there follows copy of that portion of my friend's letter referring to Mr. Cherry:

"Charles M. Howell was here today and spoke at the Court House this afternoon. With him was H. G. Cherry, who is in the Commission business at the Stock Yards. I don't know why Cherry came, only to unload a lot of ____ of which he seems to have an oversupply. At any rate, he made the assertion to William Sexton of the "Missourian" that most of the editors in the state were against you. Sexton took issue with him and stated that in his investigation while at a press meeting last week in Columbia, he found a large majority of them for you. I don't understand why Cherry should be against you."

Reports have reached me before of Mr. Cherry's knocks, but I paid no attention to them until receipt of this letter. Of course, I regret that a member of Mr. Pendergast's organization (as I understand Mr. Cherry is) would travel with another candidate who has received the valuable endorsement of Mr. Pendergast for a high office, and put in his time attempting to politically destroy one in whom I know Mr. Pendergast takes special

interest, despite all misstatements to the contrary. In view of so MUCH coming to me in the

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2- Mr. James M. Pendergast.

way of personal reports and newspaper statements of an understanding or coalition between Mr. Howell, Mr. Dearmont and Mrs. Halderman, I am not altogether surprised that Mr. Howell would have one opposing me travel with him.

I am declining to take any "chips" in this regrettable Senatorial game now being played to what I believe, will be injury of our party. Many of my friends will support Mr. Howell and they will be permitted to do so without a word of protest from me, unless driven to it in sheer self-defense, but I trust this will not occur. Anyway, as things are going along, it strides me that I am helpless to help myself in such matters.

I had thought of leaving today to resume my tour of other Ozark, counties. I returned a few days ago from visiting some twenty-three of these counties with heartening results. You know when one is dependent upon his own slender purse and declines to be "bought in advance" by individuals and interests through the medium of large subscription funds, one must necessarily depend upon "legs" and so my legs are doing their full duty while my mouth says little. You know many a man has simply "busted himself with too much mouth."

I did not call Mr. Pendergast about this matter, because I dislike so much to bother him when I know he is bothered and perhaps vexed so much by others.

With kindest personal regards to Mr. Pendergast and yourself, I am

Sincerely your friend,